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# UD Students Continue 35-Year Christmas on Campus Tradition; About 1,300 Children to Visit Campus on Dec. 8

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**UD STUDENTS CONTINUE 35-YEAR CHRISTMAS ON CAMPUS TRADITION;  
ABOUT 1,300 CHILDREN TO VISIT CAMPUS ON DEC. 8**

DAYTON, Ohio — It started as a way for University of Dayton students to celebrate Christmas before they went home for the holidays.

That was the first Christmas on Campus in 1964.

Since then it has become a major event bringing 1,300 children to campus for a night of holiday entertainment and a late-night Mass involving about 5,000 people.

On Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, there will be no classes at UD. Instead, students will be transforming campus into a sort of winter wonderland with lights and decorations. Hundreds of Dayton-area children will be adopted for one night by UD students, who will usher the children to different activities around campus.

The Christmas on Campus committee is a 24-student organization that works nearly year-round to coordinate the event. Alumni of the University are continuing the tradition when they move away from campus — holding Christmas off Campus events in 19 cities across the country.

Jeff Legan, publicity chair for Christmas on Campus, said this year's committee has focused on bringing more entertainment for grown-ups. "We're really trying to bring more adults on campus," he said. "Christmas on Campus was meant for the adults when it started. As time evolved, it became more focused on the children." Legan said the organizers thought the 35th anniversary was an appropriate time to bring back some of the original ideas.

Christmas on Campus will officially begin with a tree-lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 8, in the Kennedy Union Plaza. There will also be a live nativity scene and Santa will make a surprise entrance.

In addition to some of the traditional Christmas on Campus children's events such as playing carnival games, decorating cookies, making ornaments and building gingerbread houses, there will also be a Kwanza celebration and a chance to pet baby animals from the Columbus

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Zoo.

Musical and dance performances geared toward adults will begin every half hour.

- At 6:30 p.m. UD's Hands in Harmony music group will perform music in sign language in Kennedy Union's Torch Lounge; the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company will perform in the Kennedy Union Ballroom; and the St. Ursula Academy Vocal Ensemble will perform in Kennedy Union's Boll Theatre.

- At 7 p.m. the Swing Club will perform in Torch Lounge; the Beavercreek High School Show Choir will perform in the Ballroom; and there will be Celtic Irish Dancing in Boll Theatre.

- At 7:30 p.m. Denny Baker, a ventriloquist, will perform in Torch Lounge; William Schuerman, vice president for student development and dean of students, will perform in the Ballroom; and the South Dayton Ballet will perform in Boll Theatre.

After the children leave campus, there will be a Mass at 10 p.m. in the Frericks Center. As many as 5,000 people are expected to take part.

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For media interviews, call **Jeff Legan** or **Tiffany Hughes**, publicity co-chairs, at the Christmas on Campus office at (937) 229-3483 or call Jeff Legan at home at (937) 285-8265.